

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue # 20: Testing, Testing 1, 2, 3...

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TRUSTED MESSENGER RESOURCES

- ✓ **What's new in Treatments and Prevention Therapies?**
- ✓ **Oregon's Omicron Response Plan**
- ✓ **MRC Start-up and Sustainability Toolkit**
- ✓ Oregon's COVID-19 Data Dashboards **here**.
- ✓ **Subscribe** to COVID-19 Health talking points

UPDATES COLUMN

Oregon's January 2022 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers <small>Duplicative of members who deployed multiple times.</small>	Value of service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	1673.75	80	\$4,2513.25
Medical Reserve Corps	2,206	408	\$ 96,238.60
Total Oregon	3,879.75	488	\$ 138,751.85

- ✓ **Reminder to update your license expiration on SERV-OR**
- ✓ EMS for children program update **here**
- ✓ Check out **Oregon's Communicable Disease Rules and Reporting page** for temporary and permanent rules tracking in Oregon
- ✓ Oregon's COVID-19 Data Dashboards **here**.
- ✓ **Request** a SERV-OR member badge
- ✓ We want to hear your **stories of service!**
- ✓ **News** from the national Medical Reserve Corps office

SERV-OR Bulletin 20th Issue! Thanking the SERV-OR Bulletin Development Team **NEW**

Provided by Isna Waqas



Renee Menkens, writer: stories from the MRCs around Oregon



Sophie Miller-Desart, Writer, Compiler/formatter



Isna Waqas, Team lead, Writer, Compiler/formatter



Daniel Lee Hughson MD, reviewer/ editor



Paul Kaplan, MD, reviewer/ editor



Jeff Rubin, PhD, editor, Training Modules



Donald Venes, MD: writer, planner

This Bulletin is our 20th Issue, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate our team of SERV-OR volunteers who have contributed so much during this time! Each month the bulletin is

planned and developed by a panel of volunteers. Our goal is to get you the most accurate and updated information that informs your experience in the field as a SERV-OR member.

The SERV-OR Bulletin was created to communicate emergency response information, program engagement and professional development opportunities. As the COVID-19 pandemic draws on, we believe this resource is more valuable than ever. However, we intend for the bulletin to carry on as a channel of communication long after the pandemic is over.

The Bulletin Development team meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 8am. If you would like to become a SERV-OR bulletin contributor or provide any feedback, click the link below.

[Join our Team!](#)

COVID-19 Health Talking Points: What do I do if I test positive? **NEW**

Provided by Donald Venes

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has launched a **new website** that includes what to do if you test positive if you have been exposed, and how to seek resources if you're isolated at home and need support. **Read on for more.**

Oregon Health Authority is moving to an opt-in model for investigating COVID-19 cases, launching a new website and hotline as a way for people who test positive for the virus to report results from an at-home test kit or testing provider.

People using the new **Positive COVID Test** website and **COVID-19 Case Support Hotline, 866-917-8881**, can complete an online survey linked from the web portal to report their positive case, or get help completing the survey through the hotline. They can also get information on isolation and other ways to keep themselves and those around them safe while they recover.

Voices from the Field: Kristen Donheffner, MPH. OHA Testing Strategist – The wild ride of testing! **NEW**

Provided by Renee' Menkens

Kristen joined OHA in 2020 to develop a statewide covid testing strategy and policy. Her main focus is on making testing centered around vulnerable communities throughout the state. She has worked with community partners in over 500 testing events free to anyone who shows up. SERV-OR, community volunteers, local public health departments, Red Cross, contracted staffing, and a dedicated group of OHA clinicians support these events. "It takes a small village to make testing happen." There is "no wrong door approach" to distribute and deploy vaccine and testing in urban and rural communities. OHA is open to partnerships and collaboration with non-traditional partners – such as rodeos, community centers, fairs, and schools.



She notes the creation of the school testing programs for K-12 in both public and private settings. The schools have done a good job on communicating testing resources for students and being the face of the testing program as they are trusted in their communities. Building trust is critical to make all testing programs successful.



Challenges include staffing these operations. Capacity is limited by people available and hours in the day. In an ideal world everyone would have ready access to tests if they don't feel well. "We emphasize that if people are not feeling well to get tested. Not because you are going to friend's house to see if you are "good" or if your employer wants you to get tested to come back to work. If you are sick or have been exposed, get tested. Unfortunately, false negative test results are common, so you should also use common sense. If you are sick,

please stay home regardless your test results."

Stories of Service: A job that makes a difference! Russ Johnston, PHEP Coordinator Coos County **NEW**

Provided by Renee' Menkens

Russ Johnston is a man in motion! He recently took on the Coos County Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator position and is moving quickly to get his feet "wet" with the disaster preparedness work that is so needed in this rural, coastal county. He has seen firsthand the impact of drought and starvation in Burkina Faso and earthquake devastation in Haiti. He has trained firefighters in Alaska and worked at a local hospital as their emergency preparedness coordinator. Taking on the position at Coos Health & Wellness is a good fit for his skills and he is ready to make a difference in preparing residents for emergencies. However, his first critical public health goal will focus on managing the Covid pandemic in Coos County.



Russ stated, "I see my role as making sure that the MRC has the resources needed – funding, training, and critical supplies. I respect what they can do and support them. There is a need to focus on trainings in emergency support functions." In addition, he adds, "I can bring my skills in social media and video expertise to help bring in some new faces. Maybe develop a mentor program to bring in younger people."

Russ wants to show his appreciation for the MRC and other volunteers and the amazing work they have done over the Covid response this past year (and into the near future). He is working with MRC leadership to have a community-building event to bring people together safely to support their efforts.

We want to hear your story!

Online Training Modules **Updated**

Training opportunities are updated regularly **here**.

- COCA call on CDC's updated iso/quarantine guidelines is **here**; slides are **here**.

Visit the **SERV-OR Training page** for links to the foundational training series for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Core Competencies, FEMA Incident Command courses, and more!

Volunteer and Job Opportunities Updated

- **Program Nurse Manager - Oregon State Hospital Salem Campus- (Salem)** Full-time, Application deadline 02/20/2022
- **Training & Development Specialist 2 (Collaborative Problem Solving Coach - Multiple Vacancies)** Full-time, Application deadline 02/13/2022
- **Licensed Practical Nurse - Oregon State Hospital Junction City Campus** Full-time, Application deadline 02/02/2022
- Americorps VISTA, 21 positions open. **Contact us and Apply!**
- **RDPO Weekly Update**, contains information on current job openings. (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
- **Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs** (Dates vary depending on openings)
- For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out **Made to Save**

SERV-OR FAQs: Will SERV-OR Volunteers Receive Tests from Oregon? Updated

Provided by Isna Waqas and Sophie Miller-Desart

OHA is prioritizing distribution to those are most vulnerable and/or have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19; OHA is working with community organizations on distribution. SERV-OR volunteers are eligible to receive the same allotment of test kits as the general public. See below for more resources on getting tested:

- **OHA Distributes Test Kits**
- **Order home test kits through US Postal Service**

Rapid Testing Resources in Oregon

- **PCR Testing Locator**
- Antibody testing can be positive following infection with COVID-19 or following vaccination. Antibody tests may also produce false-positive results. Antibody testing cannot diagnose COVID-19 infection. You can find more information on At home tests **here**.
- **Difference between PCR and Antibody tests**

More information here

Contributors to this bulletin include Isna Waqas, Renee' Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Donald Venes, Daniel Hughson, Paul Kaplan, and Sophie Miller-Desart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!

SERV-OR Mission

The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and well-being, educate, and protect all people in Oregon by recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support local, tribal, and statewide public health initiatives, health, and medical needs during public health crises, and to improve access to preparedness education and resources for all. individuals and communities.